

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-313
DECEMBER 23, 2004***

***Operations and Services
MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICE PROGRAM, NWSPD 10-3
SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS***

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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Type of Issuance: Emergency.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSI 10-313, dated July 16, 2004. This directive adds the Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) to the Special Marine Warning (SMW) format in section 2.3.4 and examples in Appendix A. The VTEC information in the product formats and examples will be operationally implemented at all WFOs after February 7, 2005. Information regarding implementation of VTEC is available at the following location: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/vtec/>.

Signed by _____ December 9, 2004

Gregory A. Mandt _____ Date

Director, Office of Climate,
Water, and Weather Services

SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS

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1. Introduction. This procedural instruction provides detailed information on a product Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) issue concerning ongoing or imminent marine weather hazards. Special Marine Warnings (SMWs) provide the marine community with vital information to protect life and property.

2. Special Marine Warning (product category SMW).

2.1 Mission Connection. Special Marine Warnings protect life and property. WFO forecasters issue special marine warnings for their coastal areas of responsibility to provide advanced notice to mariners of potentially hazardous weather conditions. Special Marine Warnings will not be issued in the Offshore Waters Forecast (OFF) or High Seas Forecast (HSF), except in designated areas along the East Coast.

2.2 Issuance Guidelines.

2.2.1 Creation Software. WFOs will use WarnGen to issue Special Marine Warnings.

2.2.2 Issuance Criteria. WFOs should issue Special Marine Warnings for short-duration (up to 2 hours) sustained marine thunderstorm winds or associated gusts of 34 knots or greater; and/or hail 3/4 inch or more in diameter; and/or waterspouts.

Exception: In very unusual cases, families of cold air funnel type waterspouts may remain over an area (such as over the lower Great Lakes) for several hours. In these cases, an SMW may be issued having a valid time longer than 2 hours. Also, in these cases only, appropriate Coastal Waters Forecasts (CWFs) or Great Lakes Nearshore/Open Lakes Forecasts (NSH/GLF) should be amended to headline such events.

Note: Short duration (up to 2 hours) non-convective winds over water should be handled with a Small Craft Advisory (SCA), or Gale, Storm, or Hurricane Force Wind Warnings. There is no minimum wind duration requirement for SCA's or Gale/stronger warnings.

2.2.3 Issuance Time. SMWs are non-scheduled, event-driven products.

2.2.4 Valid Time. SMWs are valid from the time of issuance until the expiration time.

2.2.5 Universal Geographic Code (UGC). Special Marine Warnings will contain marine-based zone UGC codes.

2.2.6 Product Expiration Time. The product expiration time should not exceed 2 hours, except as noted in section 2.2.2.

2.3 Technical Description. Special Marine Warnings will follow the format and content described in this section.

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2.3.1 Mass News Disseminator Broadcast Line. SMWs should include the broadcast line “BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED.” If a state does not require EAS activation for SMWs, the broadcast line will read “BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED.” The term “BULLETIN” is used when information is sufficiently urgent to warrant a breaking into a normal broadcast.

2.3.2 Mass News Disseminator Header. The SMW MND Header is “SPECIAL MARINE WARNING”.

2.3.3 Content. SMWs will be issued in standard bullet format, as outlined in NWSI 10-1701, *Text Product Formats and Codes*.

SMWs may be issued while a small craft advisory, gale, storm or hurricane force wind warning (not associated with a tropical cyclone warning), is in effect. When a tropical cyclone warning is in effect, however, SMWs should only be issued for waterspouts.

For events impacting both land and water, separate warnings will be issued.

2.3.4 Format. The format of the SMW can be seen in Figure 1. The SMW is a non-segmented product. Please reference NWSI 10-1702, Universal Geographic Code (UGC) for additional information on product segmentation. For detailed VTEC information, please reference NWSI 10-1703, Valid Time Event Code (VTEC). For more detailed product format information consult NWSI 10-1701, *Text Product Formats and Codes*.

This product is available in industry standard encoding and languages, and may include, but not be limited to, American Standard Code for Information Interchange, Extensible Markup Language, Wireless Markup Language and HyperText Markup Language.

(WMO HEADER) (ISSUANCE DATE TIME)
(AWIPS ID)
(AREAL UGC CODE[S])-(EXPIRATION TIME)-
(VTEC STRING)

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (CITY)(STATE)
(VALID TIME) AM/PM (LOCAL TIME ZONE)(DAY)(DATE)

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A

- * SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...(MARINE FORECAST
AREA AFFECTED)
- * UNTIL (ENDING EFFECTIVE TIME)
- * AT (TIME)...(DESCRIPTION OF STORM EVENT,
MOVEMENT, IMPACT ON LOCATIONS, etc.)
- * PATHCAST (Optional; include if storm impacts are not
mentioned for affected locations/landmarks in the above
section/bullet.)

CALL TO ACTION STATEMENT

LAT...LON (Mandatory list of latitude/longitude points outlining the
forecaster-drawn polygon in WarnGen)

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FORECASTER NAME (Optional)

Figure 1. Special Marine Warning (SMW) Format

2.4 Updates, Amendments and Corrections. Updates and amendments are not applicable. WFOs will reissue Special Marine Warnings for significant grammatical errors, or format errors in marine zones already covered by a warning. WFOs will issue Marine Weather Statements, as described in NWSI 10-314, to provide the public with follow-up information or to cancel all or part of an SMW.

APPENDIX A - Examples of Special Marine Warnings:

WHUS51 KLWX 171928
SMWLWX
ANZ530-531-172130-
/O.NEW.KLWX.MA.W.0011.040517T1928Z-040517T2130Z/

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BALTIMORE MD/WASHINGTON DC
328 PM EDT MON MAY 17 2004

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN STERLING VIRGINIA HAS ISSUED A

* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...
CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM POOLES ISLAND TO SANDY POINT MD...
CHESAPEAKE BAY NORTH OF POOLES ISLAND MD...

* UNTIL 530 PM EDT

* AT 313 PM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED
SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS FROM 23 MILES NORTHWEST OF CARROLL ISLAND
TO 20 MILES NORTHWEST OF BALTIMORE HARBOR.

* THUNDERSTORMS WILL PASS NEAR...
BALTIMORE HARBOR...TAYLOR ISLAND...SPESUTIE ISLAND...

MARINERS CAN EXPECT WIND GUSTS OVER 35 KT...LARGE HAIL...LOCALLY HIGH
WAVES...DANGEROUS LIGHTNING AND HEAVY DOWNPOURS. BOATERS SHOULD
SEEK SAFE HARBOR IMMEDIATELY UNTIL THIS STORM PASSES.

INTENSE LIGHTNING IS OCCURRING WITH THIS STORM. IF CAUGHT ON THE OPEN
WATER STAY BELOW DECK IF POSSIBLE...KEEP AWAY FROM UNGROUNDED
METAL OBJECTS.

MARINERS SHOULD SEEK SAFE HARBOR IMMEDIATELY. TAKE THE NECESSARY
PRECAUTIONS TO SAFEGUARD LIFE AND PROPERTY.

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LAT...LON 3961 7665 3916 7697 3913 7624 3969 7556

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WHUS53 KAPX 152044
SMWAPN
LMZ345-363-152200-
/O.NEW.KAPX.MA.W.0002.030415T2043Z-030415T2200Z/

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GAYLORD MI
443 PM EDT TUE APR 15 2003

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN GAYLORD HAS ISSUED A

* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...
THE MICHIGAN WATERS OF LAKE MICHIGAN FROM MANISTEE TO SLEEPING
BEAR POINT...

* UNTIL 600 PM EDT

* AT 440 PM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED
STRONG THUNDERSTORMS ALONG A LINE EXTENDING FROM 35 MILES SOUTH
OF ROCK ISLAND PASSAGE TO 36 MILES NORTHWEST OF MANISTEE...MOVING
EAST AT 40 MPH. THE THUNDERSTORMS WILL IMPACT THE NEARSHORE AND
OPEN WATERS OF LAKE MICHIGAN FROM MANISTEE TO FRANKFORT THROUGH
THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON.

THESE STORMS ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING STRONG WINDS AND HAIL.
MARINERS CAN EXPECT HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND IF POSSIBLE SHOULD
HEAD FOR SAFE PORT IMMEDIATELY. BE SURE ALL HANDS ARE WEARING
FLOATATION DEVICES.

LAT...LON 4480 8715 4462 8714 4460 8609 4486 8610

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WHUS52 KMFL 161332
SMWMIA
AMZ651-161430-
/O.NEW.KMFL.MA.W.0025.030416T1332Z-030416T1430Z/

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MIAMI FL

932 AM EDT WED APR 16 2003

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MIAMI HAS ISSUED A

* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...

COASTAL WATERS FROM DEERFIELD BEACH TO OCEAN REEF FL OUT 20 NM...

* UNTIL 1030 AM EDT

* AT 927 AM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A
WATERSPOUT 6 MILES EAST OF FORT LAUDERDALE...MOVING SOUTHWEST AT
10 MPH.

A REPORT OF A FUNNEL CLOUD WAS RECEIVED FROM A PILOT EAST OF FORT
LAUDERDALE. A WEATHER OBSERVER AT POMPANO BEACH ALSO REPORTED A
FUNNEL CLOUD 5 MILES TO THE EAST. SHOWERS OVER THE NEARSHORE
WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC WILL CONTINUE TO BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING
WATERSPOUTS THIS MORNING. BOATERS SHOULD QUICKLY MOVE AWAY FROM
DEVELOPING WATERSPOUTS...AS THEY CAN EASILY SWAMP OR CAPSIZE SMALL
BOATS.

LAT...LON 2610 7989 2625 7999 2621 8010 2597 8012

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